

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks and amendments. Claims 1 and 6 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are pending in the application.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,667,984 B1 issued to Chao et al. (hereinafter “Chao”) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/10007498 filed by Angle et al. (hereinafter “Angle”).

Claim 1, as amended, recites the additional elements of “each crossbar switch unit . . . includes a grant arbiter that outputs a log(n) sized signal based on a selected request signal, the log(n) sized signal representing location information of a selected input port for generating a grant signal.” Support for the amendments may be found, for example, on page 13, lines 10-23 of the Specification. Chao fails to teach or suggest these elements. Although Chao discloses that each of the output arbiters transmits grant signals to the input arbiters, Chao fails to teach or suggest that “a log(n) sized signal” is outputted that represents “location information of a selected input port for generating a grant signal,” as recited in amended claim 1. See Chao, column 16, lines 32 and 33. As disclosed in the Specification, by having the log(n) signal, the grant arbiter ensures that the location information of the input port (as selected by the grant arbiter) is in a proper format to increase the adder of the grant arbiter (which is configured to handle a modular number format). Chao fails to disclose such technical features in the grant arbiter. As a result, Chao fails to teach or suggest each element in amended claim 1.

Further, although Angle does disclose, during a grant phase, that each output port searches its request vector (each request vector having a bit position corresponding to each input port) and then selects the first available input port that has a request for that output port (e.g., when the corresponding bit is set to ‘1’), Angle fails to disclose the elements of “each crossbar switch unit . . . includes a grant arbiter that outputs a log(n) sized signal based on a selected request signal, the log(n) sized signal representing location information of a selected input port for generating a grant signal,” as recited in amended claim 1. See Angle, paragraph [0064] and Fig. 4. Instead, Angle teaches that grants are issued based on the selected input ports but fails to teach or suggest that “a log(n) sized signal” is outputted in the manner recited in amended claim

1. Again, as disclosed in the Specification, the $\log(n)$ sized signal is used to represent location information of the input port that increases the value of the adder and then saved in the grant arbiter register. Angle also fails to teach or suggest these technical features as recited in amended claim 1.

Thus, in view of at least the foregoing reasons, Chao in view of Angle fails to teach or suggest the above cited elements of amended claim 1. In addition, dependent claims 2 and 3 are patentable over the cited art because each of these claims depends on base claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 are respectfully requested.

With respect to independent claim 6, this claim, as amended, recites analogous elements to those discussed above in connection with amended claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed in connection with claim 1, the cited art fails to teach or suggest each element of amended claim 6 as well. Moreover, dependent claim 8 is patentable over the art of record because this claim depends base claim 6. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6 and 8 are respectfully requested.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chao in view of Angle in further view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0083326 A1 issued to Wang et al. (hereinafter "Wang").

With respect to dependent claim 4, this claim depends on base claim 1 and incorporates the limitations thereof. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed in connection with amended claim 1, Chao in view of Angle fails to teach or suggest each element of claim 4 as well. Further, the Examiner has not cited and Applicants are unable to discern the portion of Wang that allegedly teaches or suggests the missing elements of amended claim 1. Consequently, Chao in view of Angle in further view of Wang fails to teach or suggest each element in claim 4. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 are respectfully requested.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chao in view of Angle in view of Wang in further view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0150121 A1 issued to Van Wageningen et al. (hereinafter "Van Wageningen").

Dependent claim 5 depends on base claim 1 and incorporates the limitations thereof. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed in connection with amended claim 1, Chao in view of Angle fails to teach or suggest each element of claim 5 as well. Further, the Examiner has not cited and Applicants are unable to discern the section of Wang and Van Wageningen that allegedly teaches or suggests the missing elements of amended claim 1. Consequently, Chao in view of Angle in view of Wang in further view of Van Wageningen fails to teach or suggest each element in claim 5. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 are respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chao in view of Angle in further view of Van Wageningen.

Dependent claims 7 and 9 depend on base claim 6 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above in connection with amended claim 6, Chao in view of Angle fails to teach or suggest each element of claims 7 and 9 as well. Further, the Examiner has not cited and Applicants are unable to discern the section of Van Wageningen that allegedly teaches or suggests the missing elements of amended claim 6. Consequently, Chao in view of Angle in view of Van Wageningen fails to teach or suggest each element in claims 7 and 9. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7 and 9 are respectfully requested.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chao in view of Van Wageningen in further view of McKeown “*The iSLIP Scheduling Algorithm for Input-Output Switches*” (hereinafter “McKeown”).

In regard to claim 10, this claim depends on base claim 6 and incorporates the limitations thereof. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed in connection with amended claim 6, Chao fails to teach or suggest each element of claim 10. In addition, the Examiner has not cited and Applicants are unable to discern the portions of Van Wageningen and McKeown that allegedly teach or suggest the missing elements of amended claim 6. Thus, for at least these reasons, Chao in view of Van Wageningen in further view of McKeown fails to teach or suggest each element of claim 10. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207 3800.

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

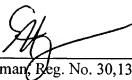
Per 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) and in connection with the Office Action mailed on May 13, 2008, Applicants respectfully petition the Commissioner for a one (1) month extension of time, extending the period for response to September 13, 2008. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 in the amount of \$60.00 to cover the petition filing fee for a 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(1) small entity. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 8/14, 2008

1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-4040
(310) 207-3800


Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139

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I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted online via EFS Web to the Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on 8/14, 2008.


Melissa Stead

8-14, 2008